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WIMBORNE MINSTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR.
1958

(INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR)

WIMBORNE MINSTER URBAN DISTRICT

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:-

CHAIRMAN:-..... Lt. Col. W.H.B. Ray.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:-..... Mr. A.R. Maiden.

Mrs. M.R. Breach.

Mr. J. Chalmers.

Mr. C.H. Cowdry.

Mr. F.O. Day.

Mr. S.I. Dennett.

Mr. H.C.M. Harvey

Dr. E.H. Markby.

Mr. F.W.J. Moore.

Mr. L.S.D. Neate.

Miss M.C. Richards.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:-

Dr. G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.
Also holds appointments of:-

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.
School Medical Officer.
Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.
Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum.
Medical Officer of Health - Blandford Rural District.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:-

E. Gellender. M.R.S.H.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:-

F. Caddick. M.R.S.H.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)..... 653.

Population as estimated by Registrar General (mid-year)..... 4300

Total number of inhabited houses at 31/12/48..... 1400

Rateable value at 1st April, 1958.....£57,964.

Sum represented by penny rate..... £230

LIVE BIRTHS..... 59

	Total.	Male.	Female.	Wimborne Minster.	England & Wales.	Administrative County.
Legitimate....	57	27	30	16.	16.4	14.7
Illegitimate..	2	1	1			
STILLBIRTHS						
Legitimate....	2	1	1			17.5

DEATHS (All Causes) Total	Male.	Female.	Wimborne Minster.	England & Wales.	Administrative County,
74	33	41	12.6.	11.7.	12.6.

INFANT MORTALITY:- Nil

Comparability Factors applied:-

Births..... 1.14. Deaths..... 0.73.

Civic Centre,
Wimborne.
September, 1959.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year was marked by the advancement of the programme for dealing with unfit houses. The first public enquiry in September ultimately revealed that the choice of unfit houses closely paralleled the intentions of parliament as interpreted on a national scale by the Ministry, and the replacement of these houses with modern homes will further advance the communal health of the urban district.

G.B. Hopkins.

September, 1959. Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A
NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area..... 653 acres.

Population.....4300
(This represents a decline of 50 since 1957.)

DEATHS.
The standardised rate of 12.6 is a slightly high one but is explicable on the basis of chance fluctuation from year to year.

BIRTHS.
The standardised rate of 16 per 1,000 population is very close to the national and county figure.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.
During the year no action was taken for the removal of any old persons in need of care and attention.

SECTION B

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.
The Public Health Laboratory service at Boscombe and Dorchester continue to give the district good service. The Laboratories undertake the bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice cream and other foods. It also examines specimens for diagnosis in the case of infectious or suspected infectious diseases.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.
The Ambulance Service of the district operates day and night from the Civic Centre.

WELFARE CENTRE.
The County Council provide an Infant Welfare Centre at the Womens' Institute Hall every Tuesday. Also an Ante Natal Clinic twice a month.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.
The County Home Help Scheme is doing excellent work in the town and district, and its contribution to the welfare of the district is becoming increasingly important.

SECTION C

Prevalance of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Whooping cough..... 1
Measles.....11
Poliomyelitis..... 1
Erysipelas..... 1
Pneumonia..... 2
Scarlet fever..... 1

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year the number of cases in the Tuberculosis Register was as follows:-

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Male.....	8	Male.....	0
Female.....	8	Female.....	2

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Notification in Age Groups.

DISEASES.	Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	10.	15.	20.	35.	45.	Over 65
Scarlet Fever.....							1					
Whooping Cough.....				1								
Measles.....			1	2		5	2	1				
Poliomyelitis..								1				
Erysipelas.....											1	
Pneumonia.....										1		1

FOOD POISONING.

There were no notified cases but a sharp outbreak of gastro-intestinal illness at the Grammar School served as a reminder of the time your staff may be called upon at any time to devote to close investigation before reliable conclusions can be arrived at. This outbreak was eventually determined to be due to "epidemic vomiting", a very acute and relatively mild condition of virus origin, possessing high infectivity and nuisance value and affecting particularly communities of school children. A brief outline of results is given below:-

Twenty five pupils became ill during three days, nineteen of whom had partaken of the only school meal which could possibly be incriminated. Samples of the meal were submitted to the laboratory and proved blameless. The school kitchen was found to be satisfactory though one or two minor structural improvements were subsequently recommended. The kitchen staff were found to be blameless. The incidence figures were interesting and revealing, as follows:-

Incidence amongst those who partook of school dinner..... 6.6%
Incidence amongst those who did not partake of school dinner..... 6.1%
Overall incidence in entire school, comprising pupils, staff and one visitor..... 6.4%.

Further confirmation was obtained over a week later when information was received of a similar attack, though with a much higher incidence of cases, occurring at the same time in a school many miles away.

SECTION D
STATISTICAL TABLES - 1958

	Causes of Death	Male.	Female.	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	-	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other.....	-	1	1
3.	Syphilitic disease.....	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
5.	Whooping cough.....	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections.....	-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
8.	Measles.....	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases..	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, Stomach.....	-	-	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	1	-	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	-	-
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	3	5	8
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	1	-	1
16.	Diabetes.....	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	5	11	16
18.	Coronary disease, angina.....	6	13	19
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	-	1
20.	Other heart disease.....	6	-	6
21.	Other circulatory disease.....	2	2	4
22.	Influenza.....	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia.....	1	3	4
24.	Bronchitis.....	-	-	-
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.....	2	-	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis.....	2	1	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1	-	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations.....	-	-	-
	C/f...	31	36	67

Causes of Death - Contd.

		Male.	Female.	Total
	B/fwd.....	31	36	67
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	1	4	5
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.....	-	-	-
34.	All other accidents.....	1	1	2
35.	Suicide.....	-	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-
	TOTALS....	33	41	74

SECTION E
Report of the chief Public Health Inspector.

TO:-

The Chairman and Members of the Wimborne Minster Urban District Council.

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my Report of the work of the Public Health Inspector's Department for 1958.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Bournemouth and District Water Company is the statutory water undertaking for the area. The water is derived from a deep well situated at Walford where it is chlorinated and softened.

11 samples taken from main supply taps were submitted for bacteriological analysis and all proved satisfactory.

The typical analysis of the water given in my report for 1957 still applies.

DRAINAGE.

(a) Main Drainage Scheme.

Tenders for this Scheme were considered in February, 1958. After further negotiations with the Dorset County Council with regard to financial assistance the Council agreed to accept the tender of Messrs. Bosworth and Wakeford Ltd., - £513,752.19.7d - which was approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

After so much time, thought and preparatory work by the Council and its officers it is satisfactory to report that construction work was commenced in May, 1958.

Contd...

(a) Cont.
During the period ended 31st December, 1958, sewers were laid in the Leigh Park and Walford areas and in West Borough and East Borough. Also a good start was made and maintained with the construction of the disposal works.

Now that main drainage is underway it will be necessary in the near future to consider schemes for the improvement of the surface water drainage to eliminate flooding in Old Road, Poole Corner and the Greenclose,St. Johns Hill area.

(b) Cesspools and Septic Tanks.

As a result of the Council ' s decision that certain cesspools and septic tanks should be inspected before emptying, the total number emptied during the year was 359, a reduction of 97 on last year's total.

Your Contractors reported increasing difficulty in finding suitable sites for the disposal of this sewage but after discussion they have agreed to continue this work for the time being without increasing the costs of same.

(c) Pail Closets.

Night soil was collected twice a week from 715 premises, a reduction of 3 on last year's total.

The system of collection and disposal continues as in previous years.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Arising from the purchase of the 18 cubic yard dual-tip vehicle the system was completely re-organised and is now working efficiently.

The quantity of refuse collected and disposed of during the year increased by 29 tons to a total of 1032 tons. Most of the increase is due to the

Contd...

RODENT CONTROL

TYPE OF RATS.	Council Premises.	Private Premises.	Business Premises.	Agric-ulture	Total
Total number of visits made by staff.....	2	280	130	2	414
Total number of premises inspected:-					
(a) on complaints.....	1	34	18	-	53
(b) on survey.....		240	80	-	320
Total number of premises found infested:-					
(a) on complaints.....		18	16	-	34
(b) on survey.....	1	32	24	-	57
Number of premises treated.	1	18	15	-	34
Number of premises cleared.		16	10	-	26
Re-treated and cleared.....		10	8	-	18
Number of pre-baits laid.....	1	27	19	-	47
Number of poison baits laid.....	1	27	18	-	46
Number of instance where other method used.....	Warferin.	360	130	-	490
Estimated number of rats destroyed.	48	150	132	-	330
Number of bodies of rats recovered.	16	50	44	-	110
MICE					
Number of complaints received.....		12	10	-	22
Number of premises treated.....		12	10	-	22
Number of premises cleared.....		11	8	-	19